

TeachME Professional Development

The Current Condition of Education 2015: Research Highlights

Highlights From The Condition of Education 2015-Attainment

1. Each of the following is an accurate statement about educational attainment in recent years EXCEPT:

- A. In 2014, some 91 percent of 25 to 29 year-olds had received at least a high school diploma or its equivalent
 - B. Between 1990 and 2014, the size of the White-Black gap in attainment of a high school diploma or its equivalent narrowed from 8 to 4 percent points
 - C. During the same period, the White-Hispanic gap narrowed from 22 to 11 percent points
 - D. The percentage of 25 to 64 year olds who had earned a bachelor's or higher degree was higher in 2012 than in 2001 in the United States (33 vs. 28 percentage)
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Teachers and Pupil/Teachers Ratios

2. The pupil/teacher ratio in public schools has decreased over time, from 26.9 students per teacher in 1955, to 17.9 in 1985, and then to 16.0 in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

- A. True
 - B. False
-

Kindergartners' Approaches to Learning Behaviors and Academic Outcomes

3. According to the authors, in elementary school, positive approaches to learning include behaviors such as paying attention in class, completing tasks independently, following classroom rules, and:

- A. Displaying motivation
 - B. Organizing materials
 - C. Setting goals
 - D. Developing rapport with teachers
-

4. In general, male kindergartners tend to rate slightly higher in their approaches to learning than female students.

- A. True
 - B. False
-

Figure 4

5. First-time kindergarteners' fall average Approaches to Learning ratings were positively associated with their _____ scores throughout kindergarten and first grade.

- A. Reading and writing
 - B. Math and language
 - C. Language and writing
 - D. Reading and math
-

Disparities in Educational Outcomes Among Male Youth

6. Despite the progress made in many areas related to education in the US, disparities in educational and other outcomes persist in the aggregate for male youth compared to their female peers in general, and for boys and younger men of color in particular.

- A. True
 - B. False
-

Figure 2

7. Which of the following is NOT an accurate statement about poverty in the US and how it relates to educational success?

- A. The percentages of Black and Hispanic males ages 0-17 living in poverty in recent years were higher than the percentages for White and Asians
 - B. Research suggests that living in poverty during early childhood is associated with lower than average academic performance that begins in kindergarten and extends through elementary and high school
 - C. Living in poverty during early childhood is also associated with lower than average rates of school completion
 - D. In 2013, only 43% of black males lived with two parents, and the large percentage who lived with their single mothers often lived in poverty
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8. Gaps in learning behaviors, knowledge, and skills among children in various racial/ethnic groups are found as early as infancy, preschool, and kindergarten thus impacting overall academic performance.

- A. True
 - B. False
-

Figure 4

9. According to recent data, females in 12th grade score slightly higher overall in reading and math than males.

- A. True
 - B. False
-

Figure 7

10. In terms of educational attainment, a higher percentage of male than female 18 to 24 year olds had not completed high school in 2014; this was true both overall and among blacks and American Indian/Alaska Natives.

- A. True
 - B. False
-

Figure 8

11. From 2000 to 2014, the percentage of male young adults who had not completed high school decreased in most racial/ethnic groups, with the highest decreases among:

- A. Blacks and Hispanics
 - B. Whites and Blacks
 - C. Hispanics and Asians
 - D. Asians and Whites
-

Figure 9

12. In 2014, the employment rate for persons ages 25-64 with a bachelor's or higher degree was 82 percent, compared with a rate of 55 percent for those with no high school credential.

- A. True
 - B. False
-

Figure 11

13. Although in recent years the percentage of persons ages 25-29 who had completed a bachelor's or higher degree has been higher for females than for males overall, the percentage of males in this age group who have completed a bachelor's or higher degree has been increasing for Whites and Hispanics.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Postsecondary Attainment: Differences by Socioeconomic Status

14. Despite the increasing number of students who have enrolled in postsecondary institutions over the last several decades, significant differences remain in the socioeconomic status of students who complete various levels of postsecondary education.

- A. True
 - B. False
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Figure 3/Figure 4

15. While over time, high school students from higher socioeconomic backgrounds tend to seek postsecondary education information from parents and college publications/representatives, those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds most often reach out to friends, coaches, and non-relatives from outside the school community.

- A. True
 - B. False
-

Figure 5

16. When evaluating performance on the standardized assessments and later college achievement, the percentages of high-performing/low or middle-SES students and high-performing/high-SES students who completed a bachelor's degree within 10 years were very similar.

- A. True
 - B. False
-

The Condition of Education 2015 At a Glance-Enrollment Trends

17. In 2013, the age groups with the highest percentage of persons enrolled in school (98%) were:

- A. 5- and 6-year-olds and 7- to 13-year-olds
 - B. 7- to 13-year-olds and 14- and 15-year-olds
 - C. 14- and 15-year-olds and 16- and 17-year-olds
 - D. 16- and 17-year-olds and 18- and 19-year-olds
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18. Data assessing the percentages of 4th, 8th, and 12th grade students who scored at or above proficient in reading and math performance between 2012 and 2013 indicate that such percentages stayed the same or increased slightly.

- A. True
 - B. False
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